

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. An apparatus comprising:
2 a comparison unit coupled to an output of a final stage of multiple stages in a
3 receiver channel; and
4 a controller coupled to the comparison unit to calibrate each of the multiple
5 stages.
- 1 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the comparison unit includes a single
2 comparator coupled to the output of the final stage, the output to provide a signal
3 representative of a received signal at an input to the receiver channel.
- 1 3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller is adapted to decouple from
2 the receiver channel to characterize performance of the receiver channel.
- 1 4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller is reconfigurable to test the
2 receiver channel.
- 1 5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus is a portable wireless
2 receiver.
- 1 6. An apparatus comprising:
2 multiple calibration circuits to calibrate multiple stages in a receiver channel;
3 and
4 a controller coupled to an output of a final stage of the multiple stages, the
5 controller to control each of the multiple calibration circuits.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the controller includes a single
2 comparator coupled to the output of the final stage, the final stage output to provide
3 a signal representative of a received signal at an input to the receiver channel.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein each calibration circuit is assigned to one
2 stage of the multiple stages, the multiple stages being a sequence of filter stages in
3 the receiver channel.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein each calibration circuit is adapted to
2 provide a DC offset calibration.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the multiple calibration circuits and the
2 controller are adapted to decouple from the receiver channel.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the controller includes a stage selection
2 circuit to sequentially calibrate each stage of the multiple stages, wherein each of
3 the calibration circuits is assigned to a separate one of the multiple stages.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the controller includes:
2 a comparison unit coupled to the final stage to evaluate a received signal
3 propagating through the receiver channel;
4 multiple registers coupled to the stage selection circuit, each register
5 associated with a separate one of the multiple stages, each register to hold a signal to
6 provide DC offset calibration to its associated stage; and
7 a modulator to provide each register with its signal to provide DC offset
8 calibration to its associated stage, the modulator responsive to an output of the
9 comparison unit.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the comparison unit is adapted to
2 compare differential intermediate versions of the received signal.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the controller is reconfigurable to test the
2 receiver channel.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the controller includes:
2 a stage selection circuit to select one or more of the multiple stages to
3 receive a test signal;
4 multiple registers, each register associated with a separate one of the
5 multiple stages to provide its associated stage with its test signal, each register
6 responsive to the stage selection circuit;
7 a modulator having a test enable input and test signal circuits to provide each
8 register with its test signal.

1 16. A system comprising:
2 a substantially omnidirectional antenna to receive a signal;
3 a bandpass filter coupled to the antenna; and
4 a receiver channel having multiple stages to convert the signal;
5 multiple calibration circuits to provide calibration to the multiple stages; and
6 a controller coupled to an output of a final stage of the multiple stages, the
7 controller to control each of the multiple calibration circuits.

1 17. The system of claim 16, wherein the controller includes a single comparator
2 coupled to the final stage of the multiple stages in the receiver channel.

1 18. The system of claim 16, wherein the controller includes a stage selection
2 circuit to sequentially calibrate each stage in the multiple stages, wherein each of the
3 calibration circuits is assigned to a separate one of the multiple stages.

1 19. The system of claim 16, wherein the multiple calibration circuits and the
2 controller are adapted to decouple from the receiver channel.

- 1 20. The system of claim 16, wherein the controller is reconfigurable to test the
2 receiver channel.
- 1 21. The system of claim 16, wherein the system is a portable wireless
2 communication system.
- 1 22. A method comprising:
2 evaluating a received signal from an output of a final stage of multiple stages
3 in a receiver channel using a single comparison unit;
4 selectively controlling the calibration of each stage of the multiple stages
5 based on an output from the single comparison unit.
- 1 23. The method of claim 22, wherein using a single comparison unit includes
2 using a single comparator.
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- 1 24. The method of claim 22, wherein selectively controlling the calibration of
2 the multiple stages includes reducing a DC offset to less than 0.5 mV for each stage.
- 1 25. The method of claim 22, wherein selectively controlling the calibration of
2 the multiple stages includes decoupling a controller having the single comparison
3 unit as an input component from the receiver channel and decoupling calibration
4 circuits that are adapted to calibrate the multiple stages from the receiver channel.
- 1 26. The method of claim 25, wherein the method further includes characterizing
2 a performance of the receiver channel with the controller and calibration circuits
3 decoupled from the receiver channel.
- 1 27. The method of claim 22, wherein selectively controlling the calibration of
2 the multiple stages includes reconfiguring a controller having the single comparator
3 as an input component to test the receiver channel.

1 28. The method of claim 27, wherein the method further includes using the
2 controller to generate a linear ramp signal to test the receiver channel.

1 29. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for
2 performing a method comprising:
3 controlling operational modes of a controller coupled to an output of a final
4 stage of multiple stages in a receiver channel, wherein one operational mode
5 includes calibrating each stage of the multiple stages based on evaluating a received
6 signal from the final stage using a single comparison unit.

1 30. The computer-readable medium of claim 29, wherein controlling operational
2 modes includes providing a selection bypass signal to decouple the controller from
3 the receiver channel and providing instructions to characterize a performance of the
4 receiver channel with the controller decoupled from the receiver channel.

1 31. The computer-readable medium of claim 29, wherein controlling operational
2 modes includes providing a test enable signal to configure the controller to test the
3 receiver channel.